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ACCRA, GHANA

U.S. black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan attacked the Western news media, saying they were a "voice of evil" that seeks to divide the black race.

Speaking at a news conference at the start of a week-long visit to Ghana, Farrakhan Thursday praised the West African nation's leader, Flight Lt. Jerry Rawlings, as a progressive leader who "is not under the thumb of imperialism."

Farrakhan attacked the Western news media, U.S. foreign policy and the CIA, saying they were used to divide black people.

He described the Western media as "the voice of evil and imperialism" that uses its power to misinform blacks in Africa and elsewhere and often succeeded in hiding the truth from them.

Farrakhan said that as a result, Africans reject genuine leaders who have the welfare of their people at heart.